



October 5, 2025
A Man After God's Heart
Patient in the Lord
2 Samuel 2:1-11 and 5:1-5

1. **Opening Discussion:** (You will probably want to use only one of these openers)
 - a. Have you ever had to wait for an extended period to get something that was rightfully yours? How did you respond to the waiting period? Were you willing to just let events play out on the assumption that it would all work out, or did you take matters into your own hands to help the process?
 - b. We are supposed to “learn from our mistakes,” but when have you learned a life lesson from someone else’s mistake? Was such a lesson as influential in your life as a lesson you learned from your own mistakes?
 - c. What are some of the things that you have done to influence or gain the favor of someone you thought might help you in some manner? Looking back on the events, do you regret any of your actions?

2. **Prayer:**

- a. Adoration – Pray a Psalm or other Scripture to focus on praising God.
- b. Confession – Spend time confessing any known sins. 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – Thank God for answered prayers, blessings, gifts, and opportunities to serve.
- d. Supplications
 - i. Pray for the activities of His Church locally and around the world.
 - ii. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of others and yourself.
- e. Least Reached People Group: **Yela of the Democratic Republic of the Congo** (*from the IMB “Loving the Lost Through Prayer” guide.*)

“The Yela (YAY-luh) are believed to be a group of over 130,000 people, living in the deep jungles of the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s (DRC) Kasai Orientale province. Centuries ago, Catholic missionaries ventured into these jungles and reported mass conversions among the Yela. Today, the spiritual state of the Yela is completely unknown by the outside world. The jungle landscape, poor infrastructure, and literal roadblocks make this people group extremely difficult to access. There is a desperate need for a missionary presence among this people group to research more about them and to share the gospel. Pray that God will call out believers to research this remote people group. Ask Him to make a way for the Yela to hear and respond to the gospel.”

3. **Sermon Key Points:**

- a. Introduction: How patient are you?
 - i. Short-term goals
 - ii. Long-term goals
- b. What is needed to have patients in your life?
 - i. God
 - ii. His Purpose
 - iii. Faithfulness to follow through with your commitment to God
- c. David and His Life.
 - i. Anointed to be king 1 Samuel 16

- ii. What does the Death of Saul and Jonathan mean to David?
- iii. David's First step of obedience to God
- d. What David needed and what we need.
 - i. Trust in God
 - ii. Walk in Faithfulness to God and His promises
 - iii. Commit to follow Christ
 - iv. Practice the Fruit of the Spirit

4. Bible Study:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
 - i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
 - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
 - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday:**
 - i. Read and meditate on 2 Samuel 2:1-3.
 - ii. The words “after this” (ESV) or “In the course of time” (NIV) translate a Hebrew idiom often used as a transition marker. See how the idiom is used in 2 Samuel 8:1, 10:1, 13:1, 15:1, and 21:18. What important transition is the idiom introducing here?
 - iii. After lamenting Saul and Jonathan, what was David's next recorded action?
 - 1. Is this the action you would typically expect from someone who has been away from his home and on the run for perhaps 10 years when the threat is removed?
 - 2. What would most of us have done if we were suddenly allowed to go home after a long, forced absence?
 - 3. What does the fact that David asked God suggest about how he would probably have responded had God said, “Do not go up”?
 - 4. What does David's action suggest about what we should do, even when the right course of action seems completely obvious? How does James 4:13-15 apply?
 - iv. Where does God direct David to go? Locate this city on a map. About how far is it from Bethlehem?
 - v. What does David do that shows us that he does not expect Hebron to be just another stop in his wanderings?
 - vi. Even though David knew that he would be king, what did he not do after Saul's death?
- c. **Tuesday:**
 - i. Read and meditate on 2 Samuel 2:4-7.
 - ii. After David had moved to Hebron, what did the leaders of the tribe of Judah do?
 - 1. Since David had already been anointed by Samuel (1 Samuel 16:1-13), why was he anointed again?
 - 2. What does verse 4a tell us about the loyalties of the tribe of Judah?

3. Why would David prefer to have the people of Judah anoint him king rather than declaring himself king based on Samuel's anointing?
 - iii. What news does David learn from the men of Judah?
 1. What was his reaction to this news?
 2. What did David promise Jabesh Gilead for having taken care of Saul's body?
 3. How would David's response to their action have been different from what they might have expected?
 4. What does David's response say about his character?
 - iv. What do you understand verse 7 to be saying? How does the meaning change depending on who Jabesh Gilead decides to side with in the upcoming civil war?
- d. Wednesday:*
- i. Read and meditate on 2 Samuel 2:8-11.
 - ii. Who was Abner (see 1 Samuel 14:50-51)?
 1. What association did Abner have with David (see 1 Samuel 17:55-57 & 20:25)?
 2. Why would Abner probably hate David – what had David done that would have greatly embarrassed Abner (see 1 Samuel 26:14-16)?
 3. Assuming Abner was with Saul when Saul went after David at the Crags of the Wild Goats, what should Abner have known about David's future role (see 1 Samuel 24:20-21)? What effect did that knowledge have on Abner's actions?
 - iii. Ish-Bosheth (which means "man-of-shame") was of military age. Why do you think he was not with Saul and his other sons in the battle where they died (1 Samuel 31:2)? Might what Saul was told in 1 Samuel 28:19 have led Saul to leave a designated successor behind, just in case?
 - iv. As you read verses 8 & 9, who obviously has the power in this new kingdom?
 - v. What are the key differences in the way Ish-Bosheth becomes king and the way David did?
- e. Thursday:*
- i. The sermon text skips ahead to 2 Samuel 5:1, but you may find it helpful to read the intervening passages as they describe events that ultimately lead to David being King of all Israel, as God promised, and will continue to be an issue even after David dies and Solomon becomes king. Today, read 2 Samuel 2:12 – 3:21.
 - ii. What significant events take place in 2 Samuel 2:12-32?
 1. As you read this account, what impression do you get of Abner?
 2. What does it say about him that he made two attempts to avoid a fight with Asahel?
 - iii. We often tend to pass quickly over lists of names like that in 2 Samuel 3:2-5. What important facts can we learn from these verses? Considering Deuteronomy 17:16-17, what does the list tell us about David?
 - iv. What important events occur in 2 Samuel 3:6-21?
 1. What causes the breakdown in the relationship between Abner and Ish-Bosheth? Why would he have been concerned that Abner had slept with

Rizpah (the same reason Solomon had for reacting violently to Adonijah's request to marry Abishag in 1 Kings 22-23, and Absalom slept with David's concubines in 2 Samuel 16:21-22)?

2. What impressions do you get of Abner and of Ish-Bosheth in these verses? Who is in charge of their kingdom? Who are they relying on?

f. **Friday:**

- i. Continuing with the intervening passages today by reading 2 Samuel 3:22 – 4:12.
- ii. What is your reaction to the account of Abner's murder?
 1. What motive did Joab have for wanting to kill Abner?
 2. Where did the murder take place? Besides the fact that Abner's murder violates the sixth commandment, why does the location of the murder make it a particularly heinous crime/sin (see Numbers 35:9-29 and Joshua 20:7)?
 3. How did David fail as king in this event? What should he have done? What explanation did David give for this failure (verse 39)? What characteristic that David has displayed so clearly in the past is missing now?
 4. Despite being the commander of an opposing army, what was David's opinion of Abner?
 5. Compare David's statement in 2 Samuel 3:28 with that made by Pilate at Jesus' trial in Matthew 27:21. In what ways are they similar? Different?
- iii. What is your reaction to the account of Ish-Bosheth's murder?
 1. While they were still in a city of refuge, Hebron, why was David justified in ordering the execution of Ish-Bosheth's murderers?
 2. What is the significance of having the hands and feet cut off the bodies?
 3. How did David treat Ish-Bosheth after his death?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Read and meditate on 2 Samuel 5:1-5.
- ii. What three things did the elders of Israel remind David of? Which were vital if he was to be their king (see Deuteronomy 17:15)?
- iii. Read Psalm 78:70-72. How do these verses capture the essence of David's life?
- iv. How does the elders' final statement in verse 2 look forward to the New Testament and beyond (see Matthew 2:6, Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:20-22, & Revelation 21:22-22:5)?

5. **Application:**

- a. God had a definite plan for David's life, but David had to wait patiently for God's will to be accomplished – he could not take matters into his own hands. We should always live our lives in the same manner. In our society that so values instant gratification, waiting is a lost art that Christians need to embrace and practice. See Isaiah 40:27-31.
- b. One of Jesus' great teaching points was the importance of forgiving (Matthew 6:12-15 & 18:21-35, Luke 6:37 & 17:3-4, etc.). When we fail to forgive, revenge often becomes our goal, and that has dire consequences. David practiced forgiveness of his enemies; Jesus tells us to forgive. Perhaps we should seek the Holy Spirit's help to make it a natural part of our lives – it is hard to imagine possessing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (the fruit of the Spirit) yet being unforgiving.